

JOHN W. PLATTENBURG.

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MARCH 7, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

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Mr. SCOTT, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 6848.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 6848) granting an increase of pension to John W. Plattenburg, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives, hereto appended, is adopted and the passage of the bill is recommended.

The House report is as follows:

John W. Plattenburg, now 75 years of age, is shown by the records of the War Department to have served as sergeant, first sergeant, second lieutenant, and captain in Company K, First West Virginia Infantry, from September 5, 1861, to July 16, 1865, when honorably discharged as of Company D, Second West Virginia Infantry; to have been captured at Manassas September 6, 1862, paroled September 13, 1862, and to have received a wound of the left shoulder at the battle of Snickers Ferry July 18, 1864.

He is now pensioned under the general law at \$17 per month on account of this gunshot wound of the left arm, the same having been received while second lieutenant of Company K, First West Virginia Infantry.

When last examined, on February 4, 1903, the board of surgeons found him so disabled from the wound, loss of sight, and deafness as to require the periodical and frequent aid and attendance of another person, and stated that he was totally blind in the right eye from a cataract, nearly blind in the left eye, due to the same cause, and that he was just able to distinguish daylight from darkness.

Medical and other testimony filed with your committee shows that the beneficiary is now totally blind; that he requires the constant aid and attendance of another person; that he has suffered from that condition for several years; that he is, of course, unable to do any work; that he has no income except a pension of \$17 per month, and that this is entirely insufficient to sustain himself in his present condition.

The case of this very aged and destitute officer, who rendered nearly four years of service and who is now blind and helpless, is worthy of sympathetic consideration.

An increase of his pension to \$30 per month is in line with numerous precedents.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended.